

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:JKBISHOP:BF

APPROVED BY AF - MR. BLAKE

AF/W - MR. LOUGHRAN

AFR - MR. BROWN

AF/C - MR. STRAND (SUBS)

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O 1,2248Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, CG, CD

SUBJECT: DROUGHT IN CHAD

REF: NIAMEY 2291 (NOTAL)

NOUACHOTT FOR ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR ADAMS

1. DEPARTMENT AND AID/W DEEPLY CONCERNED BY REPORTS INDICATING CHAD GOVERNMENT UNABLE AT PRESENT TO MAKE ADEQUATE INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES WITH SERIOUS SHORTAGES ALREADY DEVELOPING- PROBLEMS ARISING FROM PRIMITIVE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMPOUNDED BY INEFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION. SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE, DO NOT APPEAR TO BE MAKING

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WHOLEHEARTED EFFORT MOBILIZE WHAT LIMITED RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THEM. MALNUTRITION NOW EVIDENT SEVERAL REGIONS AND POSSIBLY MORE WIDESPREAD IN AREAS NOT VISITED

BY FOREIGN OBSERVORS. INITIAL REPORTS OF STARVATION JUST RECEIVED. UNLESS DISTRIBUTION MECHANISM IMPROVED, MANY MORE CHADIANS MAY STARVE IN COMING MONTHS. FAMINE COULD BECOME MORE WIDESPREAD IF FORTHCOMING HARVEST MEAGER, AS NOW APPEARS POSSIBLE.

2. TOMBALBAYE'S SENSITIVITY ON ISSUE OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY HIGHLIGHTED RECENTLY BY BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH WEST GERMANY. FOR MOMENT USG OFFICIALS HAVE MADE ALL REPRESENTATIONS N'DJAMENA CIRCUITS WILL TOLERATE.

3. DEPARTMENT AND AID BELIEVE MOBUTU MIGHT BE ABLE BRING ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTIVE PRESSURE ON TOMBALBAYE. ADDRESSEES' COMMENTS INVITED ON FOLLOWING PROPOSAL: SENIOR USG OFFICIAL CALLS ON MOBUTU. NOTING MOBUTU'S PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ON SAHEL RELIEF AND USG'S MAJOR ROLE IN RELIEF ACTIVITIES, USG OFFICIAL INFORMS MOBUTU OF INFORMATION SUMMARIZED PARA ONE. USG OFFICIAL ASKS MOBUTU IF HE WILL URGE TOMBALBAYE TO CONCENTRATE HIS ATTENTION AND THAT OF HIS GOVERNMENT ON DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES. USG OFFICIAL ASKS MOBUTU IF MOBUTU WOULD BE PREPARED OFFER TOMBALBAYE ANY ASSISTANCE WITH SUCH DISTRIBUTION, INCLUDING POSSIBLE USE OF HIS C-130S.

4. FOR N'DJAMENA, YAOUNDE, AND LAGOS: DO ADDRESSEES BELIEVE SIMILAR APPROACHES TO AHIDJO AND GOWON, OR TO SUBORDINATE CAMEROONIAN AND NIGERIAN OFFICIALS, WOULD BE HELPFUL? KISSINGER

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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